(II) Placement of DGSD order for purchase of B T will Jute Bags on BICP cost plus basis.

(III) Continuation of Export Marketing Assistance on selected export items.

(IV) Development of value added diversified jute product under the UNDP assisted jute programme.

In addition, the following steps have been taken to back-up the Jute Diversification Programme.

—Implementation of Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme.
—setting up of National Centre for Jute Diversification.
—R&D support through various textiles research associations.
—Market support by Jute Manufactures development Council for Export promotion.

Recently the Govt, has launched Technological Upgradation Fund scheme for upgradation of plant and machinery.

Handloom Reservation Order

†291. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH;

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that with consequent to compliance of the Handloom Reservation Order, there is greater possibility of imbalance between powerloom and handloom sectors in the Country;

(b) If not, whether Government have gone into the details in this regard; and

(c) If so, what are the details of the report of the study undertaken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 was enacted by the Parliament to strike a balance between the handloom and other sectors of textile industry.

Due to inherent cost disadvantage of the handloom sector, handloom weavers were put to hardships as the items produced by them were also being produced by powerloom weavers and the mill sector. Thus^ handlooms could not stand to the stiff competition from powerloom/mill sector. It was only then, the Government enacted this Act and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee constituted under the Act, Government brought out a list of articles keeping some of the textile articles exclusively reserved for production on handlooms. At present, there are 11 reserved items for handloom.

Advisory Committee under the Act, also meets frequently to review the textile articles kept under Handloom Reservation Order on representations received from handloom/powerloom/mil! sectors. Thus, attempts are made to ensure balanced growth of all these sectors.